

Grade 4 Writing

Expository Scoring Guide April 2013

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Grade 4 Writing Expository Prompt

READ the information in the box below.

Most people have a favorite season or time of year.

THINK about the time of year you like the most.

WRITE about your favorite time of year. Explain what makes it special to you.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your central idea
- organize your writing
- develop your writing in detail
- choose your words carefully
- use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

Score Point 1

The essay represents a very limited writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is inappropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The writer uses organizational strategies that are only marginally suited to the explanatory task, or they are inappropriate or not evident at all. The absence of a functional organizational structure causes the essay to lack clarity and direction.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the central idea is missing, unclear, or illogical. The writer may fail to maintain focus on the topic, may include extraneous information, or may shift abruptly from idea to idea, weakening the coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is weak. Repetition or wordiness sometimes causes serious disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times the lack of transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections causes the writer to present ideas in a random or illogical way, making one or more parts of the essay unclear or difficult to follow.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is weak. The essay is ineffective because the writer uses details and examples that are inappropriate, vague, or insufficient.
- ❑ The essay is insubstantial because the writer's response to the prompt is vague or confused. In some cases, the essay as a whole is only weakly linked to the prompt. In other cases, the writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a lack of understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be vague or limited. It reflects little or no awareness of the expository purpose and does not establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may impede the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are simplistic, awkward, or uncontrolled, significantly limiting the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer has little or no command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Serious and persistent errors create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning.

Yes, mom said it's getting cold. So that means it's getting winter. I love winter because in the word winter it has win in it. And because you get to have hot co-co. If it snows will probably have a snowball fight. Snowball fights are so fun, you get to hide and jump up and surprise everybody. It's getting cold in here is in it mom I asked, yes she replied. I walked over to check the thermometer and it was below 2°. I went to my closet as fast as I could and put on gloves, a coat, a beanie, and a pair of boots. I ran to the window to see if it was snowing! But unfortunately it didn't. I just sat by the window waiting for it to rain. I went outside to see if it was cold enough and sure it was. I poured some water into a bucket and ran outside. I throw the bucket in the air and snow came down! After that it really started to snow! I told my mom to get dressed and come outside. She asked why? I said because it's snowing! So she got dressed and came outside in about 10 minutes. I told her to build a fort and make some snowball because we're gonna have a snowball fight. She told every time I hit her she'll give me a dollar. So that got me all worked up. I started to build snowballs. I built about 50 snowballs and I didn't have a fort. But it was ok because I hit her about 40 times. And that was good because I needed some money. Mom said it's getting really cold and so we have to go inside. I love winter.

Score Point 1

The writer of this response identifies winter as his favorite season. In the opening sentences, the writer provides three reasons to love winter. However, instead of explaining why winter is his favorite season, the writer develops most of the response with a narrative about anticipating snowfall and engaging in a snowball fight with Mom. Since most of the writing is not in expository form, the development is inappropriate to the specific demands of the prompt. Confusion about the writing task results in a very limited writing performance.

Time or year I like

My grandma told me it was August no school and I was happy is going to be my birthday and my Friends too. I Love December because christmas and my brothers birthday. July is also the best pop Fireworks my cousins birthday. August is the best you want to know why. I well tell you why its sumer and no school get to play at home. An another thing is my birthday is very fun a sleepover. And my friends birthday too we have a water slide. December is the best do you want to know why. One of the things is christmas we get alot of presents. Another thing is that its my brothers birthday before christmas. July we pop Fireworks big ones and small ones. And then its my cousins birthday a sleepover party it is so much fun. Finally I enjoyed August, December, and July they are intresting things to have fun with. So thats why I like August, December and July.

Score Point 1

The writer of this response identifies August, December, and July as her favorite times of year. While this approach is acceptable, the absence of a specific central idea causes the essay to lack coherence. Although the writer maintains an appropriate expository form, the progression of ideas from sentence to sentence and paragraph to paragraph is weak. Additionally, the writer's reasons for selecting these months are weakly developed. The writer attempts to link a holiday and birthday to each month, but since these reasons were covered in the introduction, the resulting development is repetitive and insubstantial. The writer demonstrates partial control of conventions and limited word choice. Overall, this essay represents a very limited writing performance.

The Most time of year, I S summer
I like so much I always play, when ever
it is summer time every time I play football
I play it on my trampoline. And it is so
fun when I play by myself and do a backflip.
It all started when summer came and
we had no school and I was so happy about
it. When I went outside the first thing I did
was got my foot ball and got on the trampo
line.
Now you know all about a time of year
I had. When the next time summer
comes up I will do the same thing. It
was so fun very cool and I loved it.

Score Point 1

The writer identifies summer as his favorite time of year and attempts to explain its appeal by stating that playing football on a trampoline is his favorite summer activity. However, this idea is weakly developed since the only information provided is that this game is fun and that the writer can perform a backflip. Repetition and wordiness weaken the flow of the essay, and a narrative element in the second paragraph doesn't contribute to the explanation. Additionally, the writer's limited word choice and awkward, uncontrolled sentences result in an ineffective response.

Have you ever been out of town during the summer? I have when I was in third grade. It was all in the school when I was about to get out of school. Then then the teacher told us to get our backpacks so that we can leave. When the bell rang we went out said told Mr. Carter baie and my mom pickt me and my Brother so dat we can leave.

Durin the summer the tempetr got hotr each day lake seven dx-eath prsent form hight. When we go out said we start to set a lot and get to play because in wintr it gets coldr.

Whe it's summer you get sleep lait and wach tv when ever you want and sleep until ten-Thrtty or nain-forty. It was a good summer even do it was hot.

Score Point 1

After briefly referring to being out of town during the summer, the writer recounts the events on the last day of school. This organizational strategy is not suited to the expository task. The writer's development of her reasons for liking summer (hot temperatures and sleeping late) lacks details and is therefore insufficient. Serious and persistent conventions errors, such as the spellings of basic words (tolld, leve, baie, lait), create disruptions in the fluency of the writing and sometimes interfere with meaning. The writer's confusion about the expository writing task, as well as the problems with conventions, result in a very limited writing performance.

Score Point 2

The essay represents a basic writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is evident but may not always be appropriate to the purpose or the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is not always clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are only somewhat suited to the expository task.
- ❑ Most ideas are generally related to the topic specified in the prompt, but the writer's central idea is weak or somewhat unclear. The lack of an effective central idea or the writer's inclusion of irrelevant information interferes with the focus and coherence of the essay.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is not always logical and controlled. Sometimes repetition or wordiness causes minor disruptions in the flow of the essay. At other times transitions and sentence-to-sentence connections are too perfunctory or weak to support the flow of the essay or show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is minimal. The essay is superficial because the writer uses details and examples that are not always appropriate or are too briefly or partially presented.
- ❑ The essay reflects little or no thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is sometimes formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates only a limited understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice may be general or imprecise. It reflects a basic awareness of the expository purpose but does little to establish a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice may not contribute to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are awkward or only somewhat controlled, weakening the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a partial command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Some distracting errors may be evident, at times creating minor disruptions in the fluency or meaning of the writing.

Favorite Season.

My favorite season is Spring because it's not too hot or too cold it's just right. A other reason is that my apartment throws a dig in party. It's where all the people that live in the apartments come and plant flowers. Last Spring my sister and I planted a red rose bush. This year my sister and I plan on planting some tulips. The last reason I like Spring is that family always goes to Six Flags Over Texas. That why Spring is my favorite season.

Score Point 2

The writer identifies spring as his favorite time of year and attempts to develop the piece with three reasons: the weather, the neighborhood gardening event called the "dig in" party, and the annual trip to Six Flags. The "dig in" party is the best developed of these ideas because the writer not only explains what kind of party it is and who attends it, but also provides some specific details about the flowers she and her sister planted last year and will plant this year. The writer's organizational structure and control of conventions is adequate, but the overall development is minimal in this basic writing performance.

I am very very excited! Spring is starting to roll in. Now I can say good bye cold weather, and hello nice weather. Well you're probably thinking that Spring is just a regular season, but I will tell you why I like Spring so much.

The very first reason is the very best reason.

The first reason is that my birth day is in Spring, but that is just one reason. I have lots more! Reason two is the middle reason why I love this season.

The second reason is the nature the flowers start to bloom, the plants start to grow, and the grass is green. That makes me happy, but lets move on to reason three. Reason three is a reason everyone loves.

The third reason is Spring! Break! That means no school no work for a whole week! You can go on vacation sit and read. You can do any thing you want. I have lots and lot of more reasons why, but these are the three reasons that make me love Spring the most out of all the other the seasons.

Score Point 2

The writer identifies spring as her favorite time of year. Although the writer maintains an appropriate expository form, wordiness and repetition in every paragraph weaken the progression of ideas (The very first reason is the very best reason...but that is just one reason; reason two is the middle reason; reason three is a reason everyone loves). The writer's transitions from paragraph to paragraph are too perfunctory to support the flow of the essay. Although the writer attempts to develop the reasons within each paragraph, the minimal details and formulaic approach reflect little thoughtfulness. The writer demonstrates an adequate command of conventions, but the superficial development and wordiness reflect only a limited understanding of the expository writing task.

My favorite season is hot. It feels like it is a desert. It is always ninety two degrees outside. I can't stay outside for an hour or I get hot.

It's summer because you don't have school. You can stay up as late as you want to. You don't have to do any homework. You can go out of town for the whole summer. You can do more exercising than during school year. You can do more with your kids. You don't have to worry about sitting quietly. You can sleep all you want to. You can play your games as long as you want.

You get to sleep the night at someone's house all week long. You can go swimming all year. You can play tag at night and during the day. You can scream all you want to. You can ride your bike all day long. You can go hiking all day. You can ride your four wheeler all day. You can work for all of your dreams. You can read all summer long. You can play with your pets all year long. You can go to amusement parks all day. You can go bowling all day.

Summer is the funnest most funniest season I have ever heard of especially when you get to meet over one-hundred comedians. Summer is so much fun.

Score Point 2

In this basic writing performance, the writer establishes the central idea that summer is his favorite season. The writer includes many reasons, but they are not presented in a logical and controlled way; ideas shift abruptly from no school to more exercise to sleepovers and back to more ways to stay active. In addition, the repetitive sentence structure, with most sentences beginning with "you," weakens the overall effectiveness of the essay. The development is superficial because the details and examples are too briefly and partially presented, demonstrating the writer's limited understanding of the expository writing task.

Every year on Valentins day I selebtrate love and joy with my family and firends. I lve getting candys, cards, and little presents. People give to me and I give to them. After we trade I geathrae everything I have and eat some candy.

The problem is that valentins day is only once a year, but that dosen't mean that you have to give up Love, joy, gifts, cand, and cards. you can coledrate valentins day all your life.

I love everything on valentins day. On valentins day I love to spend time with friends and family and firends. valentins day alwas brings me smiels. valentins means a lot to me because of family and firends.

on valentins day I love the joy and happiness that every one gets. I Will never forget this day because that day touches my heart. I shure love valentins day.

Score Point 2

In this basic writing performance, the writer identifies Valentine's Day as her favorite time of year. The writer maintains an appropriate expository form and attempts to develop the essay by describing several components of this holiday: cards, candy, presents, and time with friends. However, the details and observations are too briefly presented to add much substance to the essay. Additionally, the repetition about loving the holiday and "spending time with family and friends" further weakens the development and causes minor disruptions in the progression of ideas.

Score Point 3

The essay represents a satisfactory writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is, for the most part, appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is clear because the writer uses organizational strategies that are adequately suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear central idea. Most ideas are related to the central idea and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. The essay is coherent, though it may not always be unified due to minor lapses in focus.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled. For the most part, transitions are meaningful, and sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to support the flow of the essay and show the relationships among ideas.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is sufficient because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and appropriate, adding some substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay reflects some thoughtfulness. The writer's response to the prompt is original rather than formulaic. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice is, for the most part, clear and specific. It reflects an awareness of the expository purpose and establishes a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice usually contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are varied and adequately controlled, for the most part contributing to the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates an adequate command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although some errors may be evident, they create few (if any) disruptions in the fluency of the writing, and they do not affect the clarity of the essay.

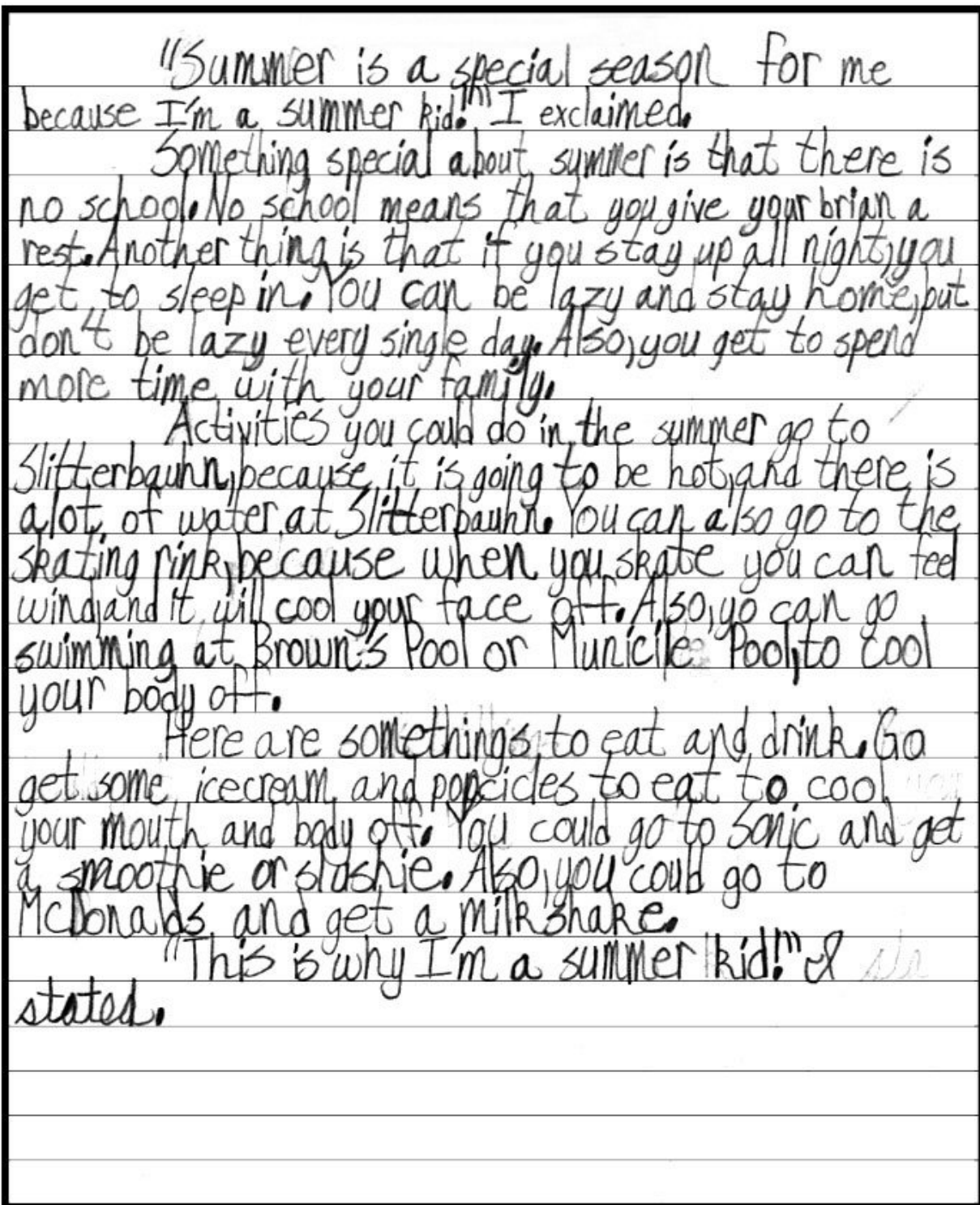
Personally, I think winter is the best season of them all, you might disagree with me but that won't change my mind one bit. I think winter is the best best season because it snows and is cold. I like cold weather a lot so I like winter. I also love snow, but it doesn't always snow in Texas, but it sure does where my family goes for the winter. My family goes to winter park Colorado every winter and it snows tons. We go there on a ski trip and play in the snow lots. Winter is a very beautiful time of year because it snows and the whole ground is covered in white, sparkling, glittering snow. It is very better in my opinion.

I also like winter because I get to spend more time with my family. My dad is a firefighter and my mom is a teacher and they both get vacation time and use it for winter when we go on vacation. Winter is a very special time of year because I have a lot of fun playing in the snow and sledding down hills. I like winter most because it brings Christmas spirit and lots of holiday fun.

Winter is very special to me because I love snow, cold weather and being with my family. I love cold weather, I love snow, I love traveling and I love winter.

Score Point 3

In this satisfactory writing performance, the writer selects winter as his favorite time of year. The writer develops the essay with specific details about the annual winter vacations and why they are important. These insights add some substance and thoughtfulness to the piece. Sentences are varied and controlled, and word choice reflects a good awareness of the expository writing task.



Score Point 3

The writer establishes the clear central idea that summer is her favorite season. Using an organizing structure that is suited to the expository task, the writer focuses on three reasons to enjoy summer: the absence of school, various fun activities, and refreshing treats. The progression of the writer's ideas is generally logical and controlled, although stronger transitions would enhance the unity of the essay. In addition, sentence-to-sentence connections are sufficient to show the relationships among ideas. Each paragraph provides specific examples and details, with an emphasis on ways to stay cool in the summer heat; these details add some substance to the piece. Overall, the writer demonstrates a good understanding of the expository task.

My favorite time of year is Christmas! What is your time of the year? I like Christmas because my birthday is on that day! I get more presents than my brother's. They cry "Why dose ^{Michelle} get more presents?" My mom replies "Because she's the girl and it's her birthday."

On Christmas night all we here is Ring, Ring, Ring, and songs of joy. I walk though the hall way and smell something good. "Mom I smell something good." I say joyfull. "What's cookin?" My brother says with a laugh. My mom remakes "It your sister's cake." "Ymmm!" he remakes. Every year when my mom takes out the cake it look's like a blooming flower!

When it is 12:00 we are like cat's and dog's looking for our presents under the tree! Last year I got 12 presents from my mom and dad. After we all finished opening our presents we go in to the yummly cake! They all ways put my face in the cake. Every year we have a Great Time!

We stay up for a while and play with our things and then we fall fast a sleep! Christmas is all about love and having fun!

That's why I love Christmas! I all so love getting pesents! NOW my brother knows why I get more pesents than him.

Score Point 3

In this satisfactory writing performance, the writer establishes the clear central idea that Christmas is her favorite time of year because it is her birthday. The progression of ideas is generally logical and controlled as the writer develops the essay by describing the festive events that traditionally occur at Christmastime: cake, presents, and fun family time. Although these events are presented in a loose chronological order, the writer maintains an appropriate expository form by including details that enhance the explanation of why Christmas is so special. The writer demonstrates an adequate command of conventions and a good awareness of the expository writing task.

My favorite time of year is when it's not too cold and not too hot, when all the leaves turn red, brown, and yellow...Fall! Fall brings back lots of memories, like when it was my birthday I started raking the leaves because it's almost like it snows red, brown, and yellow leaves, and I could enjoy jumping into my pile of "snow." Or spending a cool Saturday morning laying down on the ground looking for the prettiest leaves, counting the leaves that were falling off the trees, and trying to find all the leaves that hadn't changed color yet. My favorite day in fall is NOV. 27. (my birthday.) I'd go outside after opening my presents and look at the leaves, but they always seemed as if they were prettier on my birthday. Fall is also a great time to give thanks especially on Thanksgiving. Fall is fun because that's when Halloween arrives and you get to dress up however you want to and walk up and down the streets asking for candy. I love Fall and can't get enough of it and hope you enjoy Fall as much as I do.

Score Point 3

The writer establishes the clear central idea that fall is his favorite time of year. Using an organizational strategy that is adequately suited to the expository task, the writer focuses on the presence of leaves to explain the appeal of the season. Each of the activities (raking, jumping into the piles, counting leaves, admiring their colors) is developed with specific details. In addition, the writer's strong command of conventions and specific word choice contribute to the clarity of the essay. While the final two reasons for preferring fall (Thanksgiving and Halloween) do not carry out the theme of fall leaves, they do contribute to the overall development of the essay. However, the writer's transition from fall leaves to holidays could be smoother. Overall, the writer demonstrates a good understanding of the expository writing task in this satisfactory writing performance.

Score Point 4

The essay represents an accomplished writing performance.

Organization/Progression

- ❑ The organizing structure of the essay is clearly appropriate to the purpose and responsive to the specific demands of the prompt. The essay is skillfully crafted because the writer uses organizational strategies that are particularly well suited to the expository task.
- ❑ The writer establishes a clear central idea. All ideas are strongly related to the central idea and are focused on the topic specified in the prompt. By sustaining this focus, the writer is able to create an essay that is unified and coherent.
- ❑ The writer's progression of ideas is logical and well controlled. Meaningful transitions and strong sentence-to-sentence connections enhance the flow of the essay by clearly showing the relationships among ideas, making the writer's train of thought easy to follow.

Development of Ideas

- ❑ The development of ideas is effective because the writer uses details and examples that are specific and well chosen, adding substance to the essay.
- ❑ The essay is thoughtful and engaging. The writer may choose to use his/her unique experiences or view of the world as a basis for writing or to connect ideas in interesting ways. The writer develops the essay in a manner that demonstrates a thorough understanding of the expository writing task.

Use of Language/Conventions

- ❑ The writer's word choice is purposeful and precise. It reflects a keen awareness of the expository purpose and maintains a tone appropriate to the task. The word choice strongly contributes to the quality and clarity of the essay.
- ❑ Sentences are purposeful, varied, and well controlled, enhancing the effectiveness of the essay.
- ❑ The writer demonstrates a consistent command of sentence boundaries and age-appropriate spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and usage conventions. Although minor errors may be evident, they do not detract from the fluency of the writing or the clarity of the essay. The overall strength of the conventions contributes to the effectiveness of the essay.

"Ahh!" I scream and fall to the ground. I just got sprayed with a sprinkler, and it's cold. I stand up, shake off the water, and dry off in the summer sun. Summer is my favorite time of year because there is no school, and you get to relax and have fun. I love how the sun caresses you with its warm glow, and how a sprinkler sprays you with a million clear drops of water that shimmer on your arms, legs, and face making you feel pure. I also love going to the beach. I like how the soft, smooth sand surrounds your bare feet and how the water crawls toward your toes as you lay on a towel and read your favorite book. Even though in the summer almost every day is gorgeous, sometimes I like to just stay inside. It's fun to have time with your family. Also, I love to watch movies—comedies, chick flicks, thrillers—and have sleepovers with friends. There are countless reasons I love summer. Summer is like a wonderland for me and I don't think it's ever going to change. Those are reasons why summer is my favorite time of year.

Score Point 4

In this accomplished writing performance, the writer establishes the clear central idea that summer is her favorite season. The writer establishes focus with an engaging narrative introduction, and the progression of ideas is logical and controlled. The precise, evocative language and specific details used to describe the sensations of being outside during the summer strengthen the essay and reflect a keen awareness of the expository writing task. Sentences are purposeful and well controlled, and the overall strength of conventions further contributes to the effectiveness of this skillfully crafted essay.

My Favorite Season

My favorite season is summer because I can get away from the world for almost two hundred days. Without worrying about getting in trouble for not paying attention in class, I can do whatever I want to do. I don't have to worry about five hundred word essays or homework. I'm free in the wonderful season of summer.

I only get to see my relatives once or twice a year and summer is one of those times. I don't get all the summer days in Indiana with my relatives. I only get about a month and a half with them, so I must make every summer day count. With the part of summer I'm there I go fishing, make scavenger hunts, and play freeze tag with everyone.

The fun suddenly stops when the month and a half ends and we have to take a two day roadtrip home. Then for the rest of my summer break I have a warm swimming pool in my backyard waiting to be swam in. I'll probably be in there for the rest of my favorite season, summer. That's why summer is so special to me.

Score Point 4

In this accomplished performance, the writer identifies summer as his favorite season. The organizing structure is well suited to the expository task, and strong sentence-to-sentence connections make the writer's train of thought easy to follow. The writer describes his feelings of liberation from the drudgery of schoolwork, explains how the annual family trip to Indiana is fun, and recounts the days spent in his backyard pool. Every sentence contributes to the effectiveness of this thoughtful, coherent essay.

I can already feel that small breeze that makes your arm get covered in goose bumps. I'm already seeing parents shopping at the store for wrapping paper and toys for family members. My mother already bought jackets and gloves. I can already tell that people are starting to get ready for winter.

I think winter is the best time of the year! There are so many reasons why winter is such a magnificent season! I don't even know where to start!

My favorite holiday in winter is Christmas! On Christmas, we get to make Christmas trees with our family & get to decorate them very pretty. We get presents from Santa Clause on Christmas Eve. We also get together with family and friends and have a wonderful time together! And the best part is that you can stay up all night because we get a two week vacation in the winter!

You can play with the toys Santa gave you all night if you want! The best part about being on vacation in the winter is that when it snows outside, you can play in the snow for as long as you want!

You get to make snowmen, snowangles, and have snowball fights with your best friends in the snow!

Sometimes, I wish that time would freeze when I play in the snow because it's so much fun! Winter is my favorite season of the year because you can do so many fun things!

Score Point 4

The writer selects winter as her favorite time of the year. She uses a brief scenario about chilly weather and holiday shopping to engage the reader. The writer effectively develops her explanation by describing the Christmas activities shared with family and the opportunities for fun in the snow. The progression of ideas is logical and well controlled, and the writer's personal observations and insights add substance. The writer conveys a keen awareness of the expository purpose, and the overall strength of the conventions further contributes to the effectiveness of this accomplished essay.

I love to think about the time of year that dentists hate and ghosts love. Oh, yes! I'm talking about Halloween! I'm not particularly fond of other holidays like Christmas and Easter. If you ask me, those holidays are lame.

Why I like Halloween is a simple question to ask, and to answer. One of my reasons everyone should agree with. CANDY! Sometimes people will give out other things like candy apples and toys, but candy truly is a tradition that most kids want to keep.

Then of course there are the parties. Most parties have games, and if you win you will most likely get candy or prizes. But never forget the costume contest. The biggest prizes are given there.

But my absolute favorite part of Halloween is the costumes. Many kids dress up as monsters people or animals. Without the costumes Halloween just wouldn't be the same. Imagine if you walked up to somebody's house wearing jeans and a tee-shirt. Just not as creative.

I would feel bad if none of these activities get you excited about Halloween. But whether you're scaring a neighbor, or counting your loot, never forget how different Halloween is from other holidays.

Score Point 4

In this engaging essay, the writer identifies Halloween as his favorite time of year. The writer uses meaningful transitions to progress from the abundance of candy to game-filled parties to the tradition of wearing costumes. Specific and well-chosen details add substance to the essay. The purposeful and precise word choice and the engaging, informative tone convey the writer's keen awareness of the expository purpose. Additionally, well-controlled sentences and the overall strength of conventions contribute to this accomplished writing performance.